

CLAIMS

1 1-7. (*canceled*)

1 8. (*previously presented*) A method comprising the steps of:
2 introducing sample liquid into a reaction cell having a hybridization
3 probe array so that some interior volume is partially occupied by
4 sample liquid and partially occupied by gas;
5 centrifuging said sample liquid by rotating said reaction cell so that
6 centrifugal force in excess of 1G urges said sample liquid against said
7 array; and
8 agitating said sample liquid in said reaction cell during said
9 centrifuging so that said sample liquid moves relative to said array.

1 9. (*previously presented*) A method as recited in Claim 8 wherein
2 said agitation involves rotating said reaction cell about an agitation
3 axis that is more orthogonal to than along said centrifugal force.

1 10. (*previously presented*) A method as recited in Claim 9 wherein
2 said agitating involves periodically changing the direction of rotation
3 about said agitation axis so as to define an agitation cycle rate.

1 11. (*currently amended*) A method as recited in Claim 10 wherein
2 said centrifuging involves rotating said reaction cell during said
3 agitating at a centrifuge rate greater than said agitation rate.

1 12. (*currently amended*) A method as recited in Claim ~~10~~8 wherein
2 said agitation involves rotating said reaction cell about an agitation
3 axis that extends more parallel to than orthogonal to said centrifuge
4 axis .

1 13. (*previously presented*) A method as recited in Claim 12 wherein
2 said array extends more orthogonal to said centrifugal force than along
3 it so that said centrifugal forces urges said sample liquid against said
4 array.

1 14. *(currently amended)* A method as recited in Claim 13 further
2 comprising a step of removing sample liquid from said reaction cell,
3 said removing step involving rotating said reaction cell ~~by rotating it~~
4 about said agitation axis so that said centrifugal force urges said fluid
5 in said reaction cell away from said array.

1 15. *(currently amended)* A method as recited in Claim 8 wherein
2 said sample liquid occupies at most half of said interior volume during
3 said centrifuging and agitating.

1 16. *(previously presented)* A method comprising:
2 introducing sample liquid into a reaction cell having a hybridization
3 probe array so that some interior volume is partially occupied by
4 sample liquid and partially occupied by gas;
5 centrifuging said sample liquid by rotating said reaction cell so that
6 centrifugal force urges said sample liquid against said array; and
7 rotating said reaction cell about an agitation axis that is more
8 orthogonal to than along said centrifugal force so that said sample
9 liquid moves relative to said array.

1 17. *(previously presented)* A method as recited in Claim 16 wherein
2 said agitating involves periodically changing the direction of rotation
3 about said agitation axis so as to define an agitation cycle rate.

1 18. *(currently amended)* A method as recited in Claim 17 wherein
2 said centrifuging involves rotating said reaction cell during said
3 agitating at a centrifuge rate greater than said agitation rate.

1 19. *(currently amended)* A method as recited in Claim 18 wherein
2 said sample liquid occupies at most half of said interior volume during
3 said agitating.

1 20. *(previously presented)* A method comprising:
2 introducing sample liquid into a reaction cell having a hybridization
3 probe array so that some interior volume is partially occupied by
4 sample liquid and partially occupied by gas;
5 centrifuging said sample liquid by rotating said reaction cell so that
6 centrifugal force urges said sample liquid against said array; and
7 rotating said reaction cell about an agitation axis that is more
8 parallel than orthogonal to said centrifugal force so that said sample
9 liquid moves relative to said array.

1 21. *(previously presented)* A method as recited in Claim 20 wherein
2 said agitating involves periodically changing the direction of rotation
3 about said agitation axis so as to define an agitation cycle rate.

1 22. *(currently amended)* A method as recited in Claim 21 wherein
2 said centrifuging involves rotating said reaction cell during said
3 agitating at a centrifuge rate greater than said agitation rate.

1 23. *(previously presented)* A method as recited in Claim 20 wherein
2 said array extends more orthogonal to said centrifugal force than along
3 it so that said centrifugal force urges said sample liquid against said
4 array.

1 24. *(previously presented)* A method as recited in Claim 23 further
2 comprising removing sample liquid from said reaction cell, said
3 removing involving rotating said reaction cell by rotating it about said
4 agitation axis so that said centrifugal force urges said fluid in said
5 reaction cell away from said array.

1 25. *(currently amended)* A method as recited in Claim 20 wherein
2 said sample liquid occupies at most half of said interior volume during
3 said agitating.